

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Council Present:            Bob Teso  
                                 Herman Lopez  
                                 Paul Diaz  
                                 Vanessa Mendoza  
                                 Oscar Patino  
                                 Anita Romero

Staff Present:            Sixto Molina, City Manager  
                                 Veronica Moreno, City Clerk  
                                 Manuel Amado, Police Chief  
                                 Marilyn Chico, Housing Authority Director  
                                 Angel Lopez, Public Works Director  
                                 Bobby Yu, City Attorney

Mayor Teso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #03 – INVOCATION – Vice-Mayor Lopez led the Invocation.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL – All members of the Council were present, except for Councilwoman Rogers, who was excused.

ITEM #05 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Teso: Any persons wishing to address Mayor and Council in Call to Audience may please come up to the podium and state your name and your address for the record. Time allowed is three minutes.

(No response from the audience)

ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None available

ITEM #07 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. SECTIONS 38-431.03.(A)(1)(3)(4) – POSITION OF CITY MANAGER

Motion by Councilman Diaz to exit the Regular Session and convene into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilwoman Mendoza.

Mayor Teso: Any discussion on the motion?

Mr. Molina: Can I say something? I, I also indicate in the letter that, of res-, resignation would be effective May the 5<sup>th</sup>. I'd like that for the record.

Councilman Diaz: That's correct. More discussion?

Unknown Council member: What is there to discuss?

Councilman Diaz: Hm?

Unknown Council member: I said what is there to discuss about?

Mayor Teso: Is there any additional discussion about the matter?

Mr. Molina: I'd like to say something.

Mayor Teso: Sure.

Mr. Molina: I had this, uh, my letter of resignation scheduled for last Monday's Council meeting. And, uh, I wanted to submit my resignation, first of all, to this particular Council as a courtesy, but for whatever reason, uh, the matter was, was tabled. So, I'm at a loss as to why we're even having this session today. I mean it doesn't make any sense. You know, I, I've already resigned on Monday. I, I don't know, do I need to resign with a different color ink or? But my resignation, I, I submitted it on, on Monday to, to the (inaudible) because we didn't have the Executive Session. And so, you know, if, if you want to terminate my employment today, I mean that's your call. I, I just don't understand. You know, we can work something out. I, I think I've indicated every which way possible that I would cooperate with this Council, uh, to step aside and, and (inaudible). But at this point, it seems to me that there's some retaliation involved. Perhaps some retaliation by, uh, Councilwoman Rogers because her person that she has significant ties to was, uh, cited into Court, uh, for having, uh, violated the, numerous City ordinances, uh, as a result of owning the Spanish Trail Motel, which is the first time in 20 years that that's happened. But I put safety first. To me, that was a fire hazard and it was my call to work with our staff, uh, to remedy that situation, which resulted in, uh, the criminal, or, uh, uh, civil complaint being, being issued. Uh, then I'm thinking, okay, uh, maybe as a result of the conversations that were had, or discussions that were had, uh, uh, by this Council on Monday regarding public corruption allegation, uh, and the fact that I thought I did the right thing. I'm, I'm obligated to do the right thing. Uh, maybe that upset the apple cart. I don't know. But, I mean having resigned on Monday, and having this session here today, just doesn't make sense and I, I would like an explanation.

Councilman Diaz: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Yes, Mr. Diaz.

Councilman Diaz: Uh, the explanation that I would receive is that the fact that we received the letter on Monday and that we needed to digest it for a while ourselves. Uh, you know, the, the City does have a long record of, of yourself, your service and all this, and also the, uh, service that, under the previous administration and, uh, for myself, I didn't, I don't see retaliation of any kind on my part. You know, I, uh, I never saw, I see you as a person, and a friend, and employee, and employer, and

Minutes of Special Meeting

April 5, 2018

Page 4 of 8

everything else, you know. I have a dear respect for your services. You've done a good job in respect to what you were, you could do. And, uh, so as far as, uh, having this meeting today, I, I approve the, you know, to have the meeting. I mean not approve to have the meeting, but to be here during the meeting, so.

Mr. Molina: Acting Mayor Diaz, thank you very much for the explanation. That's the first time I've heard that. Thank you.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: (Inaudible conversation)

Councilwoman Mendoza: You have to talk loud enough for everyone to hear. We're in a open session.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Oh, okay.

Councilwoman Mendoza: A public session.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I thought the intent was, was to, uh, uh, go ahead and terminate the services of, of the City, City Manager, uh, effective immediately. And, and I think that was, uh, the intent for tonight's, uh, meeting.

(Inaudible simultaneous conversation)

Councilman Diaz: So do we wanna adjourn the, uh, Executive Session?

Councilwoman Mendoza: We're not ...

Councilman Diaz: (Inaudible) ...

Councilwoman Mendoza: ... in Executive Session.

Councilman Diaz: I mean, uh, (inaudible). Do we wanna terminate?

Councilwoman Mendoza: I don't ...

Councilman Diaz: Any more ...

Councilwoman Mendoza: ... see ...

Councilman Diaz: ... discussion?

Councilwoman Mendoza: ... an issue with him staying till the 5<sup>th</sup>, but if you guys have previously discussed this and decided, then.

Councilman Diaz: No, we.

Councilwoman Mendoza: There is not much I can do about it, other than say that I don't see an issue with him staying on till the 5<sup>th</sup>. And then having some time to digest this. I mean this is the first time I've even seen that letter. I didn't get a copy of that.

Unknown: Yeah, right.

Councilwoman Mendoza: You know, so I, I, that's the only letter I see up here. Nobody else has a letter.

Unknown: Okay.

Councilwoman Mendoza: But, yeah, I mean, I mean I thank you for your service, whether it's until today or until the 5<sup>th</sup>. It, I mean, God's honest truth, I don't know that it makes much of a difference.

Mr. Molina: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Do you have a motion?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Okay. Uh, Mr. Mayor, I, I would, uh, like to request a motion, uh, to accept and approve the resignation of the City Manager Sixto Molina, uh, effective immediately and, uh, I'll go ahead and, and appoint, uh, uh, Veronica Moreno as, as our interim, uh, City Manager until we fill the position, uh, hopefully, uh, soon.

Councilwoman Mendoza: I second that.

Mayor Teso: Discussion.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Is there ...

Mayor Teso: Is there any discussion?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: ... any discussion?

(No response from the Council)

Mayor Teso: All in favor.

All ayes from the Council. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ITEM #08- APPOINTMENT OF CITY MANAGER

See Item #07.

#### ITEM #09 - REPORTS

Minutes of Special Meeting

April 5, 2018

Page 6 of 8

Mayor Teso: Are there any reports?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor and members of the Council. First and foremost, I want to thank all of you and, and before that, I want to thank Sixto Molina here, our now former City Manager, for everything he's done in the last thirteen months. God only knows this is not the easiest job, but, you know, he was a former Chief here for ten years and, you know, he came with open arms and he had great intentions. He came to work every day and worked really hard and was out there talking to people and, and doing what, you know, what we need. And the biggest priority, everybody knows, is that the City of South Tucson, you know, is in dire need of getting that budget balanced and he's trying, with every, you know, piece of energy he's had and talking to people he knows and making contact to the property owners and people out there that, um, would, are looking at South Tucson and, and considering to move down here and, and spend some money in development. So I just want to thank Sixto Molina for everything he's done. Thank you, Sixto.

Mr. Molina: Thank you.

(Applause)

Mayor Teso: I want to thank Mr. Molina, too. I mean I've known him for many years. Many.

Teso: Pretty close to fifty, huh?

Teso: No, more than fifty (inaudible). I'm talking about the last year now. But, uh, I've always had, uh, had a, a really good time, uh, in our early years and, uh, I really find myself in dire straits here (inaudible) to release somebody who's, uh, (inaudible) and I consider to have done a very good job here, uh, as well.

Mr. Molina: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: And my last words before we end, Mayor, if I may.

Mayor Teso: Excuse me?

Ms. Moreno: If I may, if I make a couple more comments.

Mayor Teso: Sure. Absolutely.

Ms. Moreno: (Inaudible) item on the agenda, I want to thank all the members of the Council for giving me an opportunity to, again, provide whatever institutional knowledge I have over the course of almost twenty-four years here working for the City of South Tucson. I've known most of you for almost all those years, or part of those years, and I know people here in the audience. I was born and raised here, but you know, my heart is for the City. I'll work directly for you in the time that you need me to, to, you know, put forth the vision of the City. And I will work closely with the City, with the department heads and, you know, I've been working with them for quite some years here, too, and I want to do the best for the City of South Tucson and continue what it is that you all have (inaudible) and are here for. So, welcome to the City of South Tucson. This is your first official meeting as the Mayor, and I want to welcome, you know, back, uh, Vice-Mayor Herman Lopez, Acting Mayor Paul

Diaz, and I know she's not here right now, but Councilwoman Rita Rogers. I thank all of you for the opportunity and, you know, whatever you need, I'm here to serve at your pleasure.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Any other reports? No? That's it?

Ms. Moreno: One more. I just want to, uh, make one more comment. We are working for, to prepare a, an agenda for next Monday. I know it's kind of, uh, you know, (inaudible) happening quickly here, but there's a lot of items that we need to bring forth for, uh, Council action, so with your permission, Mayor, I'll prepare an agenda for next Monday.

Mayor Teso: Absolutely.

Ms. Moreno: And I'll try my best to ensure that, you know, I get those reports to Mayor and Council so they know what future agenda items are.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you, very much.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Mendoza to adjourn the Special Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Diaz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Minutes of Special Meeting

April 5, 2018

Page 8 of 8

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.



Veronica Moreno, City Clerk